



Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2017

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the above date in Room 203 at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Commissioners Goddard, Jasper-Morant, Jimerson, Sevier, White, Foster

Absent: Hughes

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

HRC Liaison: Samuel Hawkins

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley, Love Crossling

Visitors: Patricia Sledge, Laura Tew, Leslie Martin, Chantale Wesley-Lamin, Jacqueline King, Dotti DuLaney, Ashley Jacks

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers

Human Relations Commissioners Chantale Wesley-Lamin and Jackie King were welcomed and invited to share. HRC Commissioner Wesley-Lamin announced that they had a proposal for the CSW, a potential opportunity for partnership with the Human Relations Commission. She did indicate that it was a timely issue that had not yet been put to the HRC for the simple reason that it was to take place at the end of June, and because of the short time frame, they didn't want to wait to alert the commission about the possibility of partnership.

Wesley-Lamin asked how many in the room were a product of a public school system. Most in the room raised their hand. She expressed her opinion that there were too few champions of school system. Wesley-Lamin shared that they had been working with local partners such as Black Women Empowered to create

an educational equity symposium. While all of the partners were yet to be determined, she mentioned Principal Goss with NC A&T and organizations that were geared toward inspiring young men.

Jacqueline King asked if anyone was familiar with Steve Perry. Several in the room indicated that they were unfamiliar. She shared that Dr. Perry worked with young students in a charter school with incredible success. He had recently reached out to King and asked how they might partner. King expressed an awareness that too many students in Guilford County were not excelling and thriving within the school system. Commissioner Sevier asked who the audience would be. King responded that the audience would be broad, to include students, teachers and families.

Wesley-Lamin added that they planned to invite private partners in addition to public authorities and leadership. Sevier asked what the goal of the program was. Wesley-Lamin shared her opinion that a dialogue needed to take place for change to follow, that this event would offer an opportunity to connect with like-minded agencies to take action steps following the program. King shared her concern that too many children were able to graduate without being able to read. King added that Chief Wayne Scott had agreed to partner and that she planned to meet with him on the following day. If this community considered gang violence an issue, they needed to come around this issue and do something about the problems. Wesley-Lamin shared that her children were currently in Guilford County schools and one of her observations was that there was a lack of resources, and she was interested in talking with Guilford County Schools Superintendent Sharon Contreras to see what the community could do to support them.

Chair Goddard expressed initial support for the effort, and offered the support of the Commission on the Status of Women through marketing, adding that supporting this initiative fell in line with the goal of the CSW to partner with HRC.

Patricia Sledge and Leslie Martin introduced themselves as members of Business and Professional Women, Pat as a state legislative representative for BPW, and Leslie Martin, president of the local chapter of BPW. They also introduced Laura Tew with the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Sledge handed out a printed document to all in attendance and shared briefly about the goals of BPW, pointing out that the constitution was signed long ago but had yet to mention women and that 96% of adults believed that male and females should have equal rights. She continued by sharing that more recently developed constitutions in other countries included women. She shared that passing an Equal Rights Amendment would help women in poverty, victims of domestic violence, ensure the rights outlined in Title IV, and work to close the pay equity gap. It fell three states short of ratification in 1982. Sledge shared her hope that the Commission on the Status of Women would support their efforts to present this in Raleigh on March 13 and 14, and that it would be very appreciated if the CSW could pass a resolution supporting this initiative. Sledge shared a copy of a document that was being distributed to municipalities in an effort to seek support. Resolutions were passed by cities in Orange County and along the coast, and they asked that the CSW and the City of Greensboro would join them. Sledge offered various resources if they had any questions.

Goddard thanked presenters for sharing, adding that she wanted to review the material before making a decision. Council Member Abuzuaiter asked what bill she was referring to. Sledge responded that it was HB 102, Carla Cunningham's bill. Sevier said that this had been tried in the 90's but it had fallen short.

Sledge gave an example of an old bill that sat for nearly 200 years but eventually passed, pointing out that while there was a precedent, it was possible. She mentioned that there was also a question about redacted votes on ratified bills, saying that there was discussion around that possibility. She added that there was much interest nationwide in this topic and it was a timely issue.

Tew expressed her opinion that it was important to remember that North Carolina did not ratify women's rights to vote until the 1970's, that the State had an interesting 'stand alone' philosophy when it came to ratifying bills and she thought it was appropriate to ask North Carolina to, in this case, stand up. Tew mentioned that Council had kindly passed a related resolution several years ago that did include a mention of pay equity. Tew agreed with Sledge, that too often a battle was fought without constitutional support, and she expressed that it was important now to push forward.

Goddard thanked the speakers again for coming and for sharing the information.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Goddard shared her report and announced that the CSW was invited to the groundbreaking of the women's memorial at Barber Park, adding that it was thanks to the generosity of an endowment left by Ruth Wicker who specified that a certain portion of the funds should go to a women's memorial.

Domestic Violence Committee

Commissioner White, joining the commission via teleconference, thanked everyone for their support of the Tears that Watered the Flowers event. She added that the committee would be meeting to discuss future plans and she would let everyone know when the next meeting was.

Education Committee

Chair position was vacant.

Women and Equality Committee

Commissioner Jimerson shared that she did not have an update to share.

Health Committee

Chair Sevier announced that this was her second meeting as a commissioner and was still educating herself about process. She added that she had several conversations with Commissioners Jasper-Morant and Henry, and they agreed that their committees certainly overlapped and they would be working closely together.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Jasper-Morant shared that she was making progress on a program for April 22 from 9-11:30 am that would focus on integrative medical solutions to common illnesses. She hoped to reach out to possible food donors in the coming week to solicit donations. She shared that the program was nearly complete and that the flyer would be sent to the entire commission for approval before it was sent to the

community. One of her goals with the program was to empower patients to know what questions to ask the doctor in order to feel better about their health.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard announced that many people came to the pay equity event, which was a success. About 60 women were in attendance and they received great feedback.

Goddard announced that the next program, in partnership with Lindsay Burkart with the HRC, would take place on May 20 and would focus on women and re-entry issues.

V. Staff Report

Love Crossling opened with a general comment about staffing shortage, availability and programming support when events took place on weekdays and weekends, pointing out that because staff had office hours to maintain, they would begin encouraging programming on weeknights as opposed to weekends whenever possible. She asked that no new programming be scheduled before July 1 to allow staff to properly support the already scheduled programming. She went on to describe potential for a new programming model, using a quarterly forum to gather similar topics and resources to effectively address particular issues.

Commissioner Jimerson suggested that it may require a meeting between the Commission and staff to further plan and develop these new ideas. Chair Goddard asked (to clarify) if the programs already on the program could remain as scheduled. Crossling assured her that yes, already scheduled programs would stay. Goddard asked if people attended programs in the evening, and Crossling responded that yes, people attended, and attendance depended most on the amount of planning that took place. Jimerson asked if there would only be one additional person added to staff. Crossling answered that the decision currently sat with the Budget Department. Jimerson asked if staff had pointed out that there was a need for more staffing, and Crossling assured her that yes, requests had been made.

Jimerson asked about the budget deadline so that the Commission could make sure they had their budget information submitted on time in order to support the department's budgetary needs. Crossling responded that this year's focus was on staffing needs, but if they wanted to submit requests and information, it was needed by October 1.

Crossling finished by stressing the importance of the communication loop when planning a program, stressing the importance of keeping Chair Goddard informed about all details of programming. She added that the Commission should also be fully informed and provided the opportunity to give feedback on flyers, participants, and other components of the program.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Laura Tew asked to correct Dorrie Sieburg's name spelling, Chair Goddard noted a spelling correction on page two.

Motion to approve the January Minutes as Amended

Motion 1st: Commissioner Jimerson

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Jasper-Morant

Unanimous approval

VII. Announcements

Jodie Stanley invited commissioners to the upcoming event, Thrive GSO: Importance of Expungement to Housing Security on March 2 at the Greensboro History Museum (130 Summit Ave) at 6pm. Dotti DuLaney announced the Women marching Through Time lunch at the Greensboro History Museum on March 8, noting that registration needed to be made by calling the Museum.

Commissioner Foster shared that she was thankful for the patience and support of her fellow commissioners, announcing that she was officially a North Carolina Magistrate.

Stanley announced the upcoming IAC Election on March 12 at the Fanta City Event Center (4925 W Market St) and invited commissioners to show their support.

Council Member Abuzuaiter announced that Council Conversations programs were now showing and that hers was focused on the work of the HRC, IAC and the CSW's work around domestic violence. She encouraged all commissioners and attendees to view the GTN channel for more information, adding that it could be streamed.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion 1st: Commissioner Sevier

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Jimerson

Unanimous approval

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date